

MARSCON

PROGRESS REPORT 1

WELCOME FROM OUR CON CHAIRS

Rumor has it the Mayan grand cycle of evolution will culminate on December 21, 2012 A.D. The 2012 Apocalypse. If that's so, and as long as the world is gonna be ending anyway, we've got just one question...

Can we have zombies?

Or cows?

Could we maybe have zombie cows?

Let's kick off the apocalypse right with another rousing rendition of MarsCon! It's time to party like your pants are on fire! Phasers on phun! Seats in the upright and locked position 'cuz we are coming in for a bumpy landing on the red planet!

As your Con Chairs and designated cruise directors, we invite you to join us for another great time at the MarsCon science fiction/fantasy/gaming convention. Our 2012 theme will be Rockin' the Apocalypse! We're planning to fill the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites with genre films, discussions, artwork, music and mayhem for a full weekend next March.

As a lead up to the convention, you are also invited to our Masquerade Ball on November 12, 2011 (6-11pm), also at the Crowne Plaza. Come in costume, mix, mingle, and dance the night away!

Hope to see you there!

Jodi Klug, Ben Ellis & Fiona Eustathiades
MarsCon 2012 Con Chairs

GUESTS OF HONOR

Claudia Christian



Multi-talented Claudia Christian is an actor, a singer, a musician, a writer, and a director. She has appeared in over 50 films and hundreds of TV series including *The Hidden*, *The Chase*, *Clean and Sober*, *Hexed*, *Highlander*, and

NYPD Blue. Claudia is, perhaps, best known and loved by science fiction fans for her role as Commander Susan Ivanova in the Hugo award-winning television series *Babylon 5*. Her musical talents are showcased on five albums. Her amazing voice has been featured in Disney's feature film *Atlantis* as well as in award-winning audio books, Jaguar commercials, video games, and cartoons.

Catherine Asaro



Renaissance woman Catherine Asaro is a scientist (Ph.D. from Harvard), a dancer who has performed on both coasts, and a bestselling, award-winning writer of science fiction and fantasy. The author of twenty-five novels,



she is acclaimed for her Ruby Dynasty series, which combines adventure, science, romance and fast-paced action.

Her novel *The Quantum Rose* won the prestigious Nebula Award, as did her novella "The Spacetime Pool" (Analog 2008). She is a three time recipient of the Romantic Times BOOKClub Award for "Best Science Fiction Novel" and has won numerous other distinctions.

Catherine also has two music CDs out. The first, *Diamond Star*, is the soundtrack for her novel of the same name, performed with the rock band, Point Valid. The second, *Goodbye Note*, includes covers as well as originals. She performs with various musicians at clubs science conventions, and other venues in the US and also overseas, most recently as the Guest of Honor at Context, the New Zealand National Science Fiction Convention.



Author Rob Callahan

Rob Callahan is a professional purveyor of made-up stories about the way we really are. His works of fiction include the novel, *Hellbound Snowballs* and the short story

collections, *Grave Whisperer* and *Damaged Goods*. He has written and performed two award-winning spoken word shows, *Idiosyncronicity* and *The Last Ditch* (co-written with Allegra Lingo), and he regularly joins the Minneapolis entertainment troupe The Rockstar Storytellers on stage. His nonfiction has graced the pages of *Secrets of the City*, *Salon.com*, *Vetoile Magazine*, *Cracked.com* and *Livestrong.com*. He is also a part-time contributor to several magazines published by Tiger Oak Publications. For more information, please visit RobCallahan.com

Jon Sloan



Jon Sloan is a local cartoonist who has been writing, drawing, and promoting his comic *Sa-Bom Jim* since 2004. His works has also appeared in a

number of other collaborative publications such as *Muscles & Fights*, *Uptown Girl Presents*, *The City Pages Comix Issue* (2008), *SuperfantasticaComix*, and the upcoming *Germ Warfare*. Jon is a member of The International Cartoonist Conspiracy. He has taught Cartooning and Comics workshops at two local libraries, and has been a guest creator at FallCon and SpringCon.



Aric and Kim Stewart

MarsCon and the MarsCon Art Show welcome Twin Cities artists Aric and Kim Stewart as our first official "Three Dimensional Artist" Guests of Honor. Both Aric and Kim Stewart are accomplished in creating beautifully fused-glass and wire wrapped-pendants, circlets, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and more. Each piece is a one-of-a-kind and each one is handmade. This husband-and-wife team creates "items for all budgets and tastes" using semi-precious stone, Swarovski Crystal and fused glass.



Music Group The Consortium of Genius

Deep within their secret lair, four mad scientists and one smart-alecky robot are hatching an evil plot: TO ROCK the EARTH into OBLIVION! Lights, chaos, action! More than just virtuosity of musicianship, dazzling and oft bewildering visual effects, sensational representatives of mad science, The Consortium of Genius are an industrial-strength powerhouse featuring up to ten cerebral miscreants who jolt their audience into staggering submission. The resulting evil brainchild is part musical showcase, part sketch comedy, and all hi-tech magic. The group's website is located at www.ConsortiumOfGenius.com.

DementiaRadio.org is sponsoring COG's appearance at MarsCon 2012.





Fans Wes & Wendell Duellman of the Omega Podcast

The Omega Podcast reviews many things in the Doctor Who universe and more! This podcast, based in the Midwest of the USA, is transmitted every week... or so... The hosts, Wendell and Wes, are long-time *Doctor Who* fans. Make sure to visit The Omega Podcast website at www.theomegapodcast.org! You can also check out their YouTube page or follow them on Twitter.

TIME TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY!

MarsCon has been hosting charity auctions and food/clothing drives since we began—14 years ago! Through the generous contributions of attendees, we have been able to help Camp Heartland, the Alzheimer's Association, Kids Need to Read, Twin Cities Second Harvest Heartland, Family Circuits, the Gordy Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund, and Standing Rock Reservation. Charities need our help now more than ever.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP A CHARITY IN NEED. HERE'S HOW:

Nominate a worthy cause

Send us an email, call somebody on ConCom, or post a facebook message with your choice of designated charity for MarsCon 2012. Tell us a little bit about the charity and provide a web link if there is one.

Vote for a designated charity

We vote on charities at the October planning meeting, and all ConCom meetings are open to the public. Anyone who attends may vote or make a last minute pitch for his/her favorite charity.

Make a donation

Surely you have a book, toy, service or other treasure that another fan would appreciate. Drop it off at a planning meeting or at the convention prior to the charity auction.

Volunteer

You can help with setting up the charity auction. We will need runners and tabulators during the auction. Volunteers may also be needed to keep track of party nominations and update the giving chart. After the convention, we may need drivers to transport food/clothing drive donations.

Show up and bid on items

We have auctioned off some pretty fantastic things in past years, including autographed pictures & programs, hand-crafted jewelry and even Dr. Demento's top hat. There are always books, comics, t-shirts and other collectibles from which to choose. Those who participate in the auction get some incredible deals, and it's all for a great cause.

PROP-A-TORIUM VI AND THE HALF-BLOOD PROPS

We're back for year six. Come see what new props we have, and the return of our favorite props. From *Indiana Jones*, *Harry Potter*, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Stargate*, *Lord of the Rings*, and so much more from movies and TV shows. We have Fan Made Props, "Officially Licensed" Props, a few actual Screen-Used Props, even those high end collectibles we all covet from Sideshow, Master Replicas, Warner Brothers and more. If you like swords or lightsabers, bullwhips or blasters, come by the Prop-A-Torium!

THE A/V CLUB ROOM

The A/V club room is looking for volunteers, to help run the room. Who doesn't want to watch movies? Second annual film festival, is it true that fans can make better movies than Hollywood? See what fans can do when they are given a camera.

SUP GAMERS!

Hello again from MarsCon Gaming! Last year was pretty cool. Most of the problems, such as the multiple rooms issues, have been fixed, so it should be even cooler! Gaming will run as late as people want it to. If you missed any of the events, many are returning for MarsCon 2012, plus some new ones that are sure to please! Remember to get your

game requests and other suggestions in at games12@marscon.org or follow the link on the web site early, because space for demos and scheduled events is limited. People can sign up for any block of time to host whatever games they want, no matter how ridiculous. Any open space remaining will allow Open Gaming, which is always good. Thanks for the continued support. Remember to keep your pencils sharp, your dice clean, and your cards close, and we'll see you at Marscon 2012!



—Brian LaBounty Gaming Czar

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW CO-HEAD OF MASQUERADE.

Actually, I'm the (old) new head of Masquerade, specifically the head of the Masquerade committee that deals with the Masquerade Lounge set-up and programming. The NEW head of the Masquerade contest itself is Bill Hedrick. Many of you have seen us team up to do the (combined make-up and costume demo) 'Creating the ...', at past MarsCons.

Over the years, programming in the Masquerade Lounge has grown substantially, from almost nothing to over 20 hours of costume related panels, demos and discussions. And I just don't have enough time to keep track of it all. So that's why I've asked Bill to take over the contest part of it. BUT, there will still be plenty of programming related to costumes. The regulars; Masquerade 101 (how to enter a costume contest), Judging 101, Care and Feeding of Wigs, Basic Make-up, Henna painting. Plus some newer ones; An Overview of Underwear, Corsets and Crinolines, SteamPunk Fashions, as well as prop making panels, and 'Tips and Tricks for Costume Beginners'.

I'd like to hear from you! Are there any costume/prop/make-up/wig related panels you'd like to see, or, better yet, like to host? We're always on the lookout for the next big thing in cosplay! Just contact me by e-mail, or forward your request to Christine LaBounty (who is in charge of general programming).

For any specific questions about the Masquerade

contest itself (rules and regs and all that), and/or hall costume awards, please contact Bill Hedrick.

Rae Lundquist (a.k.a. The DreamStitcher)

MASQUERADE NOTES



Greetings! I am the NEW Head of Masquerade, Bill Hedrick. I have been for several years Rae's stunt double, and in a fit of sleep deprivation, took the job for running the Masquerade! We hope to keep the good things going and to add more fun things! One of the important additions I want to make is to add a new category to the Masquerade, a formal Exhibition class. There are a LOT of great costumes that never get on stage at Marscon, we need to show them off to as many people as possible. I have a cunning plan to get you on to the adoring masses as painlessly as imaginable. Marscon has always prided itself as having a friendly accessible inviting masquerade; that won't change a whit! But we will have new improved interfaces, a better photo session, and generally improving the already fun atmosphere. We will have many surprises and additions to announce in the future.

Also we need more volunteers! If you want to get behind the scenes and see just how costume-related stuff works, this is for you. You also get to spend time with amazingly amazing folks and make new friends!

-Bill Hendrick, Masquerade Director

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Planning meetings, a.k.a. ConCom meetings, take place throughout the year. You needn't be a member of the committee to attend. We welcome visitors, representatives of other groups, and the mildly curious. We promise to not press-gang you... unless you express an interest in volunteering. In that case you are so ours.

Meetings generally are held on Sundays at 1:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites (formerly Holiday Inn Select), 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN. Here is our meeting schedule and list of important dates:



- 9 | 11—First call for programming ideas (PR1—This is it!)
- 10 | 16 | 11—ConCom Meeting; Charity Vote
- 10 | 21-23 | 11—Valley Con Promo Party, Fargo, ND
- 10 | 31 | 11—Registration rate increases
- 11 | 12 | 11—Masquerade Ball, 6–11 PM
- 11 | 20 | 11—ConCom Meeting; PR2 submissions due
- 12 | 18 | 11—ConCom Meeting; Last call for Programming Ideas
- 1 | 8 | 12—ConCom Meeting
- 1 | 31 | 12—Registration rate increases; Program Book ads deadline
- 2 | 12 | 12—Program Book articles due; Ops training
- 2 | 26 | 12—The “What did we forget!?” meeting
- 3 | 9-12 | 12—MarsCon happens!



FIRST CALL FOR PROGRAMMING IDEAS!

Many thanks to everyone who helped by presenting programming at MarsCon 2011--from magical discussions, to amazing and memorable concerts and performances--programming just seems to get better and better each year. Now here is your chance to top last year's programming events and party like you've survived an apocalypse!

Please think about what you've seen and liked in past years or at past cons...or maybe what you've never seen yet that would be astounding or wonderful to see at MarsCon 2012. Then post your idea for an event to our online programming ideas form at: http://marscon.org/2012/program_ideas.php.

Let us know if you wish to volunteer for this event or if you have a Guest of Honor or someone else in mind to run with your idea and make that event happen. If special tech is needed, tell us about it. There are a lot of steadfast volunteers around who can help with technical needs.

MarsCon depends on you, the attendees, for much of our programming. The best ideas always come from attendees, so please share your ideas with us.

As always, MarsCon is immensely grateful for the incredible programming we receive each year from artists, authors, guests, musicians, singers, actors, fan groups, clubs and individuals. I can't thank you enough!

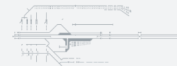
--Christine LaBounty, Programming Chair

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

2012 sees MarsCon back at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites (formerly Holiday Inn Select...same hotel, different name). The room rates are \$95 + tax for a regular room and \$115 + tax for suites on any floor, including the party floor.

Reservations made by calling hotel directly at 952-854-9000 or toll-free at 1-800-227-6963 and mention “MarsCon Sci-Fi/Fantasy Convention.”

Tip: Try calling the 952 number first during regular business hours, and please let us know if you have any trouble getting the MarsCon rate so we can help. Taking a room at the hotel is a wonderful way to enhance your convention experience. It gives you a home base, a place to park your stuff, to entertain friends, and to crash whenever you finish with partying throughout the convention weekend...not to mention it makes the host hotel very happy with MarsCon. The hotel is located at 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN (34th Ave S exit from I-494



HOSTING A PARTY?

An Apocalyptic Party to be held on the 13th floor of a hotel? Sign me up! What do people at MarsCon do after programming is ended for the day? After Science Room, Prop-a-torium, Dealers Room and Art Show have closed? Why, they party until the wee hours of the morning, of course!

So would you like to help make MarsCon a great con by throwing a party? Of course you would, but you are wondering how do I do this? It is fairly easy really: First pay a visit to the party request form section of the MarsCon 2012 website: <http://marscon.org/2012/parties.php> Then fill in the required fields, then contact the hotel, book your room, and send us your confirmation number.

Get your requests in early for specific rooms or suites, as suites are limited on the party room floor. Also, there is a \$25 per room charge for furniture removal. Lastly, any questions, comments, concerns please contact us at parties12@marscon.org.

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing your party at the convention!



ADVERTISE YOUR CLUB OR BUSINESS!

Advertise with MarsCon, and your ad will reach an audience of SF/Fantasy fans, gamers, readers, collectors, and other like-minded beings. We are also interested in swapping ad space with other conventions. Here are the rates for advertising in the Program Book. Please e-mail publications12@marscon.org for information about ad specs for the Program Book. Ads are due by January 31, 2012. We reserve the right to refuse any ad.

Program Book Fan Group Pro



- Full Page** (7" x 8.5")\$60-\$85
- Half Page** (7" x 4.25")\$30-\$50
- Business Card**\$15-\$25

VOLUNTEER. IT'S A COOL THING TO DO.

Volunteers can expect the usual incentives like buttons, t-shirts, discounts and other goodies.

There may be a few scheduled events for volunteers as well, like drawings for prizes, set times for certain Snarky's meals, celebrity meet & greets and a party for volunteers.

If you are already planning to volunteer for a particular department/activity at or before the con, feel free to contact the head of that department directly. If you are undecided and want to talk about what you can do as a volunteer for MarsCon ahead of time, drop us a line in email or join us for a meeting. If you would like to donate a prize for volunteers, please get in touch with us asap at volunteer12@marscon.org. Remember, MarsCon is completely run by volunteers, so your contributions make this convention happen.

BECOMING A SPONSOR

Completely, crazy-nuts about MarsCon? Find yourself wishing you could do a little more to keep the party going or make it better? YOU CAN! Please consider becoming a MarsCon 2012 Sponsor.

Giving a little extra money along with your registration will go far in improving the quality and variety of everything we offer, as in:



- More chocolate for Con Suite;*
- More Guests to entertain you;*
- More equipment for Main Stage;*
- More variety in Programming;*
- More exhibits in the Science Room;*
- More space for Parties and Games;*
- More movies for AV Film Club;*
- More prizes for Costumes/Karaoke.*



Sponsors may be rewarded with special badge ribbons, acknowledgment in the Program Book, and the exuberant gratitude of all your fellow fen. Or, if you prefer, sponsorship can be kept quiet. We will still love you. Sponsors are welcome to request that funds be spent on a particular department or event.



THANK YOU AND SEE YOU SOON!



MARSCON 2012
ROCKIN' THE APOCALYPSE



TICKETS \$10

Saturday,
November 12, 2011

6pm meet & greet,
7-11pm dance & costume contest

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Suites
(Same hotel, different name)
3 Appletree Square
Bloomington, MN 55425

MarsCon 2012
March 9-11, 2012

Visit www.marson.org for details

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RATES FOR MARSCON 2011

Through	10 31 11	1 31 12	At the door
Adult	\$35	\$45	\$60
Child	\$15	\$20	\$25
Supporting	\$20	\$25	-
Sponsor	\$75	\$75	\$75

*Supporting members pay a reduced rate through 1 | 31 | 12 to hold tickets and then complete the purchase by paying an additional \$25 at any time up to and including at the door.

You can register online with Paypal or mail the form below with your payment to the following address: **(no cash, please)**

Marscon
P.O Box 21213
Eagan, MN 55121

E info12@marscon.org

W http://marscon.org/2012

Crowne Plaza Hotel: 952-854-9000

MARSCON REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Badge Name: _____

Address: _____

Address(2): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER! PLEASE CONTACT ME!

Please E-mail me: MarsToday updates Progress Reports as PDF's

I want information about: Dealer's Room Art Show Gaming Room Masquerade Party Room © 2011 FenSF, PR 1

Badge Type:

Adult Child (6-12) Supporting

Amount enclosed _____

